

De Curaçaoche Courant.

ST. THOMAS.

Jan. 23.—The American ship Rolla, Morrison, hence for Boston, was totally lost on the rocks near Chatein on the 23rd ultimo, and, melancholy to add, all on board, except two seamen, perished.

A proclamation issued on the 4th December, by Sir Charles Brisbane, Governor of St. Vincent, offers a reward of £100 current money to any person or persons who shall bring into the port of Kingston, in that island, the sloop Charles & Thomas, belonging to the same port; that vessel, with a person on board, calling himself Brown, having been represented by Baron Donzelot, Lieutenant General and Governor of Martinique, to have violated the laws of the Customs both of Great Britain and France, and forcibly carried away a French Custom House Officer from St. Pierre's, and landed him in St. Lucia. The proclamation also notifies to all collectors, comptrollers and other officers of his majesty's customs, that the said sloop Charles & Thomas is sailing without any register.

The Sierra Leone Gazette of the 15th July, notices with satisfaction, the arrival of a schooner from Barbados, last from Demarara, for Africa; in exchange of West India produce.—Such an intercourse, says the Editor, must prove highly beneficial to all parties concerned, and must be hailed as the dawn of a new branch of commerce. A general census of the colony, to the 8th July last, has been published, exclusive of the military, European and native, by which we learn that there were 120 whites and 12,401 blacks. Since the last census in 1818, the increase of population seems to have been 2856. Under one of the heads is noted, "Negroes from Edibad & Honduras, 85." —Demarara paper.

DISCOVERY SHIPS.

The following particulars as to the result of a voyage which will be memorable in the annals of hydrography, are written by a gentleman resident at Aberdeen:

"Lieut. Parry entered by Lancaster Sound, proceeded directly over captain Ross's special chart of land, and reached, in the parallel of 74 or 75, 114 or 115 west, about 550 miles farther than capt. Ross asserted the polar sea to be navigable. In 90 they fell in with islands, which continued successively till they reached the extreme westerly point of one in 115; here winter overtook them, and they turned back to 118, and wintered in a snug harbour in five fathoms water. (There is some error in the figures here—either they are transposed, the vessels having reached 118 and returned to 115, or if 115 be the extreme point, then we should probably read 108 or 113 in the place of 118). On the breaking up of the ice this season, attempts were made to proceed westerly, but immense barriers of ice from the polar sea to the northward shut out all hope of succeeding in the parallel of 74; and before they could return to the eastward, and renew the attempt in a lower latitude, the navigable season, which is confined to August and a few days in September, offered no reasonable chance of succeeding this year; independent of which, provisions would not have held out in so precarious and dangerous a navigation for the winter, and the time they would certainly have been frozen up. The existence of a polar sea to the westward of "Hezne's River," is incontestably established. Mackenzie saw it still farther to the westward, and by reference to the map, you will perceive Icy Cape, which most clearly demonstrates the American line of coast. Experience has taught these hardy navigators, that in the month of August, such a powerful radiation from the land takes place, as to render a channel sufficient to demonstrate the certainty of the existence of a north west passage, and that a practicable one, but not open to any possible commercial purposes. In 90 the compasses were useless on board, the attraction of the needle was extreme; in one case, I think £86. Lieut. Parry is represented to possess all the peculiar talent and prowess for proceeding in this arduous undertaking, which will undoubtedly be accomplished by the shores of America, a continuity of land established, and from the radiation before mentioned the passage is certain."

"The crews of the vessels have conducted themselves as became men in such a momentous expedition. They have been particularly healthy, and returned to England with the loss of only one man, and that from casualty. What a powerful tribute to the discipline and care of the officers commanding, with the thermometer of Fahr. 55 deg. below Zero, where the breath of every one in his sleeping-place formed a sheet of ice over his head in the morning! Lieut. Parry's ship, the Hecla, in consequence of having lost her foremast and bowsprit in a gale of wind lately, will put into our roads. The Griper proceeds on to Sheerness. Lieut. Parry left the vessels off Peterhead.

"The extremity of Lancaster Sound, in the north-west corner thereof, is laid down by capt. Ross in lat. 74 deg. 19 min. N. and in long. 83 deg. 50 min. W. From this it would appear, if

the accounts which we have received concerning the discovery ships are correct, that commodore Parry has wintered 482 geographic miles (31 deg. 10 m. long.) west of the extreme boundary of that Sound, as supposed by capt. Ross; namely, in 115 deg. W. long. and 75 deg. N. lat. This place is 280 geographic miles to the westward of north from the mouth of the Coppermine river. Whether it is on an island or the continent, we have not yet learned; but it is most probably the former; and if so, there appears no reason to doubt but that the sea surrounds North America, as the Russian navigators from the westward have penetrated through inland seas, between Behring's Straits and Icy Cape, to about 155 deg. W. long. where they learned that a Strait ten days rowing in length, and lying in a north-east direction communicated with the Great Ocean. The land where Icy Cape stands will thus be found to be on an island; and there is therefore little reason to doubt the continuity of sea from the Strait mentioned to Baffin's Bay, through the channel by which the discovery ships have penetrated to the westward from that Bay. Whether that channel, however, is open and free from ice, and consequently fit for navigation, we know not; but commodore Parry's account will perhaps afford us some certain data on which to ground our opinion. His account of his voyage will be anxiously expected, and cannot fail to be extremely interesting.—Whether he has been farther to the westward than where he is said to have wintered we know not as yet; but that point is full 800 geographical miles from Icy Cape, the extreme point of Cooke's navigation northward."

Another letter from Aberdeen, dated Nov. 1, says,—“The Hecla came into our Bay yesterday for provisions, and sailed in the afternoon for Leith Roads. Her gallant and intrepid commander, capt. Parry, accompanied by his astronomer, came on shore at Peterhead on Monday, and passed through here yesterday, to go by land to London. They parted with the Griper in the North Sea, and she is expected up every hour. The Hecla encountered a heavy gale after parting with the Griper, and sustained some damage. Few particulars of their highly interesting voyage have yet transpired, the officers and crew of the vessel confining themselves to casual observations, until their commander shall have laid his journal before the Lords of the Admiralty. We understand that they wintered in lat. 75 N. and in their attempts to explore a passage to the Western Ocean, were as far 111 W. They wintered in a snug bay in Lancaster Sound; and did not get clear of the ice till the 5th of August this year. From October till February, or for about 100 days, they were in darkness; but with abundance of wholesome provisions, and other requisite comforts, they passed the time very agreeably. The crew were amused with games of every kind; and occasionally they acted plays for mutual entertainment. As to the main object of the expedition, the discovery of a north west passage, we cannot yet speak with much confidence. One of the officers with whom we have conversed entertains not the least doubt upon the subject; but we must wait for lieut. Parry's observations before we pronounce with certainty.—The country will look with great anxiety for the publication of the journal of this voyage.—They have been out for about 18 months, having sailed from Sheerness on the 18 May, 1819.”

Arctic land expedition.—Accounts have been received in Edinburgh from a gentleman attached to the Arctic land expedition, dated in January last, at which period the party were in comfortable winter quarters at Cumberland house. The cold was very severe, the thermometer standing at 39 deg. below Zero, but owing to the dryness of the atmosphere it was not so unpleasant as the cold wet weather in England. The rivers and lakes abounded with fish of various kinds, particularly trout of a very large size, and the hunters brought moose deer, and buffalo from the woods, so that there was no scarcity of provisions at their present station. It was intended to proceed to the northward as soon as the season would permit, and, having the whole summer before them, they expected to make great progress in their journey, but owing to the great distance to the supposed northern shores, it is probable that it would take them the greatest part of next summer to make any very extensive survey of the coast; and that they would have to retire to the southward during the ensuing winter; but it was uncertain where they would take up their quarters, as they could gain no intelligence of the country beyond the limits of the fur traders. The officers of the Hudson's Bay and north-west companies had paid every attention to the party.

Cape of Good Hope.—The John arrived at Portsmouth late on Tuesday night, from the Cape of Good Hope; she took out 600 settlers to Algoa Bay, principally from Lancashire. The passengers were severely attacked with the measles on the voyage out, but from the great attention paid them, they soon recovered from its effects.—*Glasgow Courier Aug. 16.*

Bonaparte.—The following is an extract of a letter received from St. Helena, by a gentleman in Portsmouth:

“Watching Bony is now a very amusing occupation. I lately saw the gentleman riding out, having marshal Bertrand on a white horse, in front. He and lady Bertrand were together. Count Montholon and a retinue in the rear.—He is uncommonly gross and odiously puffed out in the face. He goes out much oftener now than ever, but occupies much of his time in writing criticisms upon the generals of antiquity. He takes great delight in a small garden that he has fitted or rather laid out, like a London citizen who is desirous of having mul-tum in parvo; there are lakes, rivers, woods, grottos, &c. &c., all in miniature. This place is his Sanctum, and an unfortunate cow that by some chance got into it, was shot by Bonaparte himself for the sacrilege. No one whatever is permitted to approach his residence without the governor or admiral's special leave. Nor is a stranger ever permitted to go out of Jamestown without a pass from the adjudant-general; nor is any one permitted to go on board a ship in the harbour without one. The thermometer in the hottest summer days is seldom above 73; in town it is often at 90 or upwards, but generally from 83 to 85, at present it is generally about 60 to 63.”

Prince Leopold.—On his marriage with the late princess Charlotte, a Peerage was offered to his highness, but which was declined, on the ground that it would involve him in party feuds, from which, as a foreigner, he wished to keep aloof. However, during his late residence in Germany the prince wrote to lord Liverpool, demanding the promised Peerage, as it was previously agreed on that his refusal should not be a bar to a future claim. His lordship, after consulting his sovereign, informed the prince of Cobourg that the lamented death of his consort materially changed his political condition in England, as he might marry a foreign princess, and it might so happen that the English House of Peers would count successive foreigners among them, which would be looked upon with a jealous eye by all classes of persons in this country. Prince Leopold, it is said, then claimed the Peerage for himself, to the exclusion of his male heirs, which was also refused.—*British Monitor.*

TRIFLES.

Renewing a promise.—A late noble lord, who was sparing of money and lavish of promises, had given his note to a gentleman for a considerable sum he owed him; it had been long due, and the peer never failed when he met him to make a handsome apology. Tired with promises that were never intended to be realized, the creditor one day, in answer to a new promise, said he had no doubt of his lordship's honour, and that he would pay it at the time he then fixed; but, added he, “in the mean time, as this note is almost worn out, I should be glad if your lordship will take it up, and give me one upon parchment.” The peer being a man of wit, could not stand the severity of the rebuke, but paid the money almost immediately.

Right views of things.—The witty and convivial lord Kelly being in his early years much addicted to dissipation, his mother advised him to take example of a gentleman whose constant food was herbs, and his drink water. “What, madam,” said he, “could you have me imitate a man who eats like a beast and drinks like a fish?”

Politeness.—A German at St. Petersburgh asked a gentleman if he did not think the German language very beautiful. “Certainly, Sir,” said he, “languages are extremely beautiful things”—*Galiffe's Italy.*

Coincidence.—An earthquake was felt at Innspruck, on the 17th Aug. It is singular that this phenomenon took place precisely at the time of the day dedicated to Saint Alexis, when the people assembled in church to put up their annual supplication to be spared from such a calamity as befel them in 1670. This is shocking misconduct in the saint!

Curious law case.—The following singular case, occurred a few weeks since in the western district of this state. A farmer's meadow, was grievously infested with grasshoppers.—Dreading the complete destruction of his crop of hay, he collected all his sons, cousins, &c. &c. armed with drums, fifes, tin kettles, and frying pans, and drove the troublesome insects into the field of his next neighbour. The crop of the latter was, of course in a few days, completely destroyed. He commenced an action for trespass, and the jury—second Daniels!—found a verdict for the plaintiff of 14 dollars—damages and costs.—*New York paper.*

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